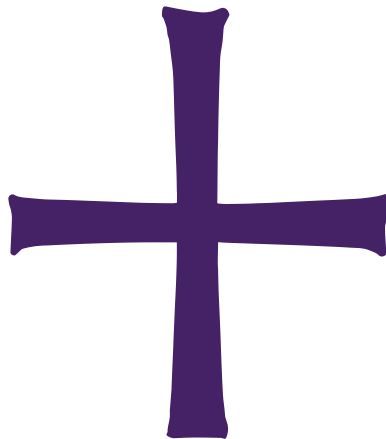


SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

April 7, 2024— Third Sunday of Great Lent.
Veneration of the Cross



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Welcome to St. Elizabeth

WELCOME VISITORS! We are delighted you are here. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church. Please join us after the service for coffee and refreshments in our fellowship hall. If you have questions about any facet of Orthodox worship, our priest—Father John Strickland—would be very happy to meet and assist you in any way possible.

If you are not familiar with the Orthodox Church, you may see some things that are new to you—icons and incense, the sign of the cross, veneration of the saints, and a lot of standing. These elements have been part of traditional Christian worship from ancient times. They reflect the heavenly nature of the Church.

If you would like to learn more about Orthodoxy, we have a small bookstore where Orthodox publications may be purchased and a lending library where many Orthodox books and periodicals can be borrowed. If you would like to learn more about our parish, please visit our website at <https://stelizabethorthodox.org>. There, you can find a link to our parish YouTube page where you can view Father John's Sunday homilies.

Please note that Orthodox priests may serve Communion only to baptized and chrismated members of the Orthodox Church. The Eucharist is the paramount expression of unity among Christians; but the reality today is that many Christians are not united in matters of doctrine and practice. While some Christians are content to agree to disagree, we believe true unity will occur only when modern Christians are reconciled to the ancient Church, with its faith and life delivered “once, and for all.” In light of this, we respectfully request that rather than partaking of the Eucharistic Chalice, our non-Orthodox guests join us in receiving the *antidoron*—or blessed bread—served at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Please feel free to contact Fr. John any time at (360) 598-9700 or rector@stelizabethorthodox.org.

—Thank you for joining us today. Glory to Jesus Christ!

Bulletin News

- ✦ Bremerton Prayer Walk—If you are interested in helping out with the Bremerton Prayer Walk, please join us at church on April 10th at 5:00 p.m. to help assemble food bags to hand out to the homeless, and on April 13th at 9:00 a.m. for the walk itself (beginning at the Marvin Williams Center). Contact Jamie Telegin at teleginj@gmail.com with any questions.
- ✦ Change to Women's Group Schedule—The Women's Group will meet on Saturday the April 13th from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Please join us to discuss this month's topic: *What is the Great Fast like in real life?* You are welcome to share your experiences as well as any wisdom you have gleaned from the scriptures or writings of the fathers and saints. We will continue to meet the second Saturday of each month, and welcome all women in our parish to join us. Please contact Terri Adkins at adkinsterri7@gmail.com if you have any questions.

April Name Days, Anniversaries, and Birthdays

- ✦ Name days—St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker (April 24)
- ✦ Birthdays—John Alcantra (April 3); Sydney Telegin (April 19)

This Week at St. Elizabeth

April 7th—(Today)
5:00pm Pan-Orthodox
Lenten Vespers at St.
Demetrios, Seattle

April 8th—Monday
6:30pm Catechesis

April 10th—Wednesday
5:00pm Confessions by Appt.
5:00pm Meet to assemble
food bags for distribution at
Bremerton Prayer Walk
6:30pm Presanctified Divine
Liturgy

April 13th—Saturday
9:00am–11:00am Bremerton
Prayer Walk (beginning at
Marvin Williams Center)
10:00am Women's Fellowship
10:00am–5:00pm Choir Practice
4:00pm Parish Council
6:00pm Great Vespers

April 14th—Sunday
10:00am Divine Liturgy
5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lenten
Vespers at Holy Assumption,
Seattle

Today's Hymns

Third Sunday of Great Lent—Tone 3
Veneration of the Cross

Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion of the Cross

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Thy Cross//
preserve Thy habitation!

Tone 1 Troparion *(St. Tikhon)*

Let us praise Tikhon, the Patriarch of All Russia,
and Enlightener of North America,
an ardent follower of the apostolic traditions,
and good pastor of the Church of Christ,
who was elected by Divine Providence,
and laid down his life for his sheep!
Let us sing to him with faith and hope,
and ask for his hierarchical intercessions:
keep the Church in Russia in tranquility,

(continued on next page)

and the Church in North America in peace;
gather her scattered children into one flock,
bring to repentance those who have renounced the True Faith,
preserve our lands from civil strife,//
and entreat God's peace for all people!

Glory . . .

Tone 2 Kontakion *(St. Tikhon)*

A gentle manner adorned thee:
thou didst show kindness and compassion to those who repented;
thou wast firm and unbending in confessing the Orthodox Faith,
and zealous in loving the Lord.
O holy Hierarch of Christ and Confessor Tikhon,
pray for us that we may not be separated from the love of God,//
which is of Christ Jesus, our Lord!

Now and Ever . . .

Tone 7 Kontakion *(Cross)*

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden;
it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished;
for Thou, O my Savior, hast come and cried to those in hell://
“Enter again into Paradise!”

Today's Scripture Readings

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

Epistle Reading—Hebrews 4:14–5:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"

Gospel Reading—Mark 8:34–9:1

And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

Today's Commemorations

St. Tikhon, Enlightener of North America & Confessor of Moscow

“Bishop Tikhon traveled throughout North America during his nine-year apstorate here. He opened up many new parishes in America. He strengthened the bond among the various groups of Orthodox faithful, encouraging them to think of themselves as one (which was a new concept for these far-flung and varied congregations throughout North America). It was in this vein that he said once, ‘The closer the unity among the Orthodox of various nationalities, the stronger will the Orthodox be in this land.’

“Bishop Tikhon soon came to understand that the American mission could not be only an extension of the Church in Russia. He devoted his efforts to directing the faithful in America to become a local, self-sustaining and autonomous Orthodox Church. He opened the first American seminary in Minneapolis. He established the first American monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. He requested the Holy Synod of Russia to send a bishop to be the Auxiliary Bishop of Alaska. They sent Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky). Bishop Tikhon then saw to the consecration in 1904 of a bishop here in America—the Antiochian Raphael Hawaweeny, who became the Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn.

“Bishop Tikhon did not let the various languages of his diverse flock become a barrier to their unity. As early as 1904, services at the cathedral in San Francisco were held in English. In 1906, he published the work of Isabel F. Hapgood, an Episcopalian who was fluent in Russian and Slavonic. Mrs. Hapgood had been commissioned to compile, translate and arrange many of the services of the Orthodox Church into one volume.”

. . . “The term ‘enlightener’ refers to his role in evangelizing the American people. St. Tikhon once said, ‘The Light of Orthodoxy is not lit for a small circle of people . . . It is our obligation to share our spiritual treasures, our truth, our light, and our joy with those who do not have these gifts. This duty lies not only on pastors and missionaries, but also on lay people, for the Church of Christ, in the wise comparison of St. Paul, is a body, and in the life of the body, every member takes part.’”

—excerpts from *Portraits of American Saints*, by George A. Gray

The Nicene Creed: the Symbol of Faith (sung together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages: Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pre-Communion Prayers (said together)

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Who camest into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Therefore I pray Thee: have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord in Thy Kingdom.

May the communion of Thy Holy Mysteries be neither to my judgment, nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body. Amen.

